Avergal, B. A., LL. B; 28. Mr. K. C. Mammen Mappillai, B. A.; 29. M. R. Ry. P. K. Narayana Pillai Avergal, B. A., B. L.; 30. Mr. J. John Nidiri, B. A., B. L.; 31. M. R. Ry. M. Nilakanta Pillai Avergal, L. M. & S. (Homeo.); 32. M. R. Ry. N. Padmanabha Pillai Avergal, BAR-AT-LAW.; 33. Mr. Joseph Panjikaran, B. A., B. L.; 34. M. R. Ry. S. Paramesvara Aiyar Avergal, M. A., B. L.; 35. M. R. Ry. Changanachery K. Parameswaran Pillai Avergal, B. A., B. L.; 36. M. R. Ry. G. Paramesvaran Pillai Avergal, B. A., B. L.; 37. M. R. Ry. P. Paramesvaran Avergal; 38. Mr. W. H. Pitt; 39. M. R. Ry. K. C. Raja Raja Varma Avergal, B. A., B. L.; 40. M. R. Ry. M. Raja Raja Varma Avergal, M. A., B. L.; 41 M. R. Ry. N. Ramakrishna Pillai Avergal, B. A., B. L.; 42. M. R. Ry. C. Ramankunju Avergal; 43. M. R. Ry. K. P. Raman Pillai Avergal, B. A., B. L.; 44. M. R. Ry. V. Raman Pillai Avergal; 45 M. R. Ry. Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar Avergal, M. A.; 46. M. R. Ry. V. Subba Aiyar Avergal, B. A., B. L.; 47. Mr. Dominic Tomman; 48. Mr. A. J. Van Ross; 49. M. R. Ry. Trivikramar Vasudevar Avergal; 50. M. R. Ry. T. K. Velu Pillai Avergal, B. A., B. L.

PRESIDENT: Gentlemen of the Reformed Legislative Council, in welcoming you to the inaugural meeting of the Council, I have very great pleasure in informing you that I have been graciously commanded by His Highness the Maha Raja to deliver to you His Highness' Message on this auspicious occasion. The following is the Message.

The President then read the following Message, the whole House standing:

HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHA RAJA'S MESSAGE TO THE TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

"GENTLEMEN OF THE TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

On the occasion of your first meeting under Regulation II of 1097, which I promulgated early in the year, I desire to send you a message of good-will, faith and hope.

2. Thirty-four years ago, I commanded the creation of the first Legislative Council which was to consist of not more than eight nominated members, of whom six were to be officials. Their functions were mainly of an advisory nature with regard to the legislative measures placed before them. Ten years later, the strength of the Council was raised to a maximum of 15 nominated members and the non-official proportion was also raised, but the official majority, though reduced, was retained. Though the law did not recognise elected members, a restricted power of election was, by executive action, given to the members of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly ten years later. The statutory right to elect members by the direct vote of the people was conferred only three years ago and occasion was then taken to issue a fresh Proclamation by which the maximum strength of the Council rose to 25 and the members were allowed to discuss the budget and to interpellate Government on matters of public interest. But the official majority still remained. A couple of years afterwards, the present law was promulgated by me which

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has given you a decisive elective non-official majority. While continuing to you the same freedom of discussion on the Budget, it enables you also to vote on it subject to certain limitations. You have also now the privilege of moving Resolutions and placing before my Government, by that means, your considered views on matters of public interest. The electorate has been constituted on a very broad franchise.

3. In investing the Council with wider powers, fiscal and other, I feel that I am making a constitutional experiment of great magnitude. In taking such action, I was mainly guided by two circumstances, namely, that for more years than you and I can remember, this country has been receiving, in continuously increasing measure, facilities for education and that its loyalty to its Sovereign is its cherished tradition. I look up with confidence to you and to the officers of my Government to work in harmony, trying your best to understand each other, and in a spirit of confidence and sympathy, making the welfare of my beloved subjects your common concern." (Cheers.)

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR: Mr. President, Sir, on behalf of my colleagues on both sides of this House I request you to convey to His Highness the Maha Raja our deep feelings of loyalty and devotion to the person and throne of our Sovereign. Our dutiful and respectful thanks are also due for the inspiring Message that you have just read. I need hardly assure you that it shall be our constant and earnest endeavour to discharge our duties to the best of our knowledge, ability and judgment. (*Cheers.*)

PRESIDENT: We now adjourn and the business meeting commences at 2-30 P. M.

The Council re-assembled after lunch at Two thirty of the Clock. The President was in the Chair.

SECRETARY: I beg to announce that the following Regulations have received the assent of His Highness the Maha Raja on the dates mentioned against them :—

(1) The Government Land Assignment Regulation, III of 1097—11th December, 1921.

(2) The Lepers Regulation Amendment Regulation, IV of 1097—11th December, 1921.

(3) The Irrigation Regulation Amendment Regulation, V of 1097—16th December, 1921.

(4) The Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Regulation, VI of 1097—16th December, 1921.

(5) The Chitties Regulation Amendment Regulation, VII of 1097—16th December, 1921.

(6) The Forest Regulation Amendment Regulation, VIII of 1097—26th December, 1921.

(7) The Election Offences and Enquiries Regulation, IX of 1097—26th December, 1921.

(8) The Revenue Recovery Regulation Amendment Regulation, X of 1097—26th December, 1921.

(9) The Fisheries Regulation, XI of 1097—30th December, 1921.

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[Mr. K. George.]

PRESIDENT: Mr. George will now introduce the Budget Estimate for the year 1098.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

MR. K. GEORGE: SIR, I beg to introduce the Budget Estimate for the year 1098. Budgeting this year has been a task of considerable difficulty. Members will observe that the Budget as presented is different in form from those of previous years. To bring out a Budget arranged in such manner as will facilitate discussion and voting, we have had first of all to completely recast the heads of revenue and expenditure. Besides, the division of expenditure into votable and non-votable involved considerable labour and often occasioned much perplexity. Another factor which added greatly to our difficulty was the revisions of salary and staff which the Government have recently sanctioned in most departments. These revisions were undertaken after the departmental heads had submitted their budgets and have gone on even until the last stage of budget preparation. We have as yet no exact information of the pay which the revised staff will receive and have not thus been able to provide the actual amounts required for salaries of officers and establishments in the new year. Consequently, the amounts provided have been calculated on the average cost of the sanctioned appointments. Thus, altogether the preparation and printing of the Budget involved an unusual amount of difficulty and labour and, if there are any defects and errors in it, as very probably there will be, I trust the Council will generously excuse them.

REVIEW OF 10 YEARS.

2. I believe that there is a general impression that expenditure in the State has been growing in recent years out of all proportion to its revenues and the fear is often expressed that we are drifting, consciously or unconsciously, into bankruptcy. The apparently abnormal increase of expenditure during the last 3 years would also seem to justify this charge. I, therefore, think that it will not be out of place to give here a brief review of the State's finances for the past 10 years, *viz.*, from 1087 to 1096. That would cover a pre-war period of 3 years, the period of the war and a post-war period of 3 years. In 1087 our revenue amounted to Rs. 138 lakhs and the expenditure met from revenue to Rs. 135 lakhs leaving a revenue surplus of Rs. 3 lakhs. The revenue and expenditure rose to Rs. 155 lakhs and Rs. 152 lakhs respectively in 1089, leaving us again a revenue surplus of Rs. 3 lakhs. The year 1090, which was the first year of the great war, witnessed a sharp fall of Rs. 6 lakhs in our revenues, but against this there was an increased expenditure of Rs. 10 lakhs. The combined result of both was a large revenue deficit of Rs. 13 lakhs. In 1091 the revenue partially revived and by making drastic cuts in expenditure to the extent of Rs. 17 lakhs we were able to close the year with a surplus of Rs. 7 lakhs to our credit. Between the years 1091 and 1094 the revenue rose by Rs. 29 lakhs (from Rs. 153 lakhs to Rs. 182 lakhs), *i. e.*, at the average rate of Rs. 7¼ lakhs a year. Expenditure did not, however, grow with equal

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